

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 280830Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2321
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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TOFAS 4

HUGHES FAS FROM AG ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, HU
SUBJECT: EC DIRECTIVE 78/50 IMMERSION CHILLING OF POULTRY MEAT

REF: FASTO CIRCULAR 387

1. ON AUG 24 AGATTACHE MET TAMAS, DEPUTY GENERAL
DIRECTOR AND SEBESTYEN, TECHNICAL MANAGER BOTH OF
HUNGARIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY TRUST TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
IN REFTEL. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS LEARNED.

2. POULTRY INDUSTRY TRUST OPERATES ABOUT A DOZEN
PROCESSING PLANTS WHICH ARE CERTIFIED TO EXPORT
POULTRY MEAT TO COMMON MARKET, CHIEFLY TO WEST
GERMANY. HUNGARIAN CERTIFICATES OF THESE PLANTS ARE
STRICT AND FOLLOW CLOSELY HEALTH AND SANITARY STANDARDS
ESTABLISHED BY WEST GERMANY. IN THE PAST SOME OF THESE
PLANTS WERE CLOSED DOWN BECAUSE THEY DID NOT MEET
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STANDARDS. AT THIS TIME ALL ARE CERTIFIED. WEST
GERMAN INSPECTORS VISIT THESE PLANTS REGULARLY ABOUT
ONCE EVERY YEAR.

3. THE NEW DIRECTIVE ON IMMERSION CHILLING WHICH
WILL ENTER FORCE IN FEBRUARY 1979 WILL APPLY TO HUNGARY
TOO, HOWEVER, ITS ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL IMPACT IS

EXPECTED TO BE MINOR OR NONE. ONE MAIN REASON IS THE COMPOSITION OF HUNGARIAN POULTRY EXPORTS TO THE EC. OVER 90 PERCENT OF HUNGARIAN POULTRY EXPORTS TO THE EC (ROUGHLY ONE-FOURTH OF THE TOTAL POULTRY EXPORTS) CONSIST OF DUCKS AND GEESE. FOR YEARS THESE HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO AIR CHILLING AND THEREFORE WATER IMMERSION REGULATION WOULD NOT APPLY TO THEM. THE NEW REGULATION WILL APPLY ONLY TO THE REMAINING LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF SHIPMENTS, WHICH ARE CHICKENS. HOWEVER EVEN HERE THE PROBLEM WHICH THE HUNGARIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY TRUST WILL FACE IS EXPECTED TO BE SMALL. IT WILL REQUIRE ONLY SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR WATER CHILLING OPERATIONS.

4. THE HUNGARIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY TRUST HAS FOR YEARS BEEN RECONSTRUCTING ITS POULTRY PROCESSING OPERATIONS. IN THIS WORK IT HAS BEEN MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF UP-TO-DATE TECHNOLOGY WITH A VIEW TO MEET THE STRICTEST HEALTH AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF MANY LEADING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. FOR THIS REASON THE HUNGARIAN POULTRY PROCESSING INDUSTRY ALREADY MEETS SOME OF THE KEY EC REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMERSION CHILLING. AS AN EXAMPLE IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW IMMERSION CHILLING OPERATION WILL REQUIRE BETWEEN 4 TO 5 LITER OF WATER PER BIRD. THE CURRENT HUNGARIAN SYSTEM OF CHILLING FOR CHICKENS USES ALREADY THAT AMOUNT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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WATER. MOREOVER, THE SYSTEM APPLIES EQUAL AMOUNT OF WATER TO ALL BIRDS, REDUCING THE RISK OF SELECTIVE CONTAMINATION.

5. STATE SUBSIDIES ARE NOT RECEIVED BY THE POULTRY PROCESSING INDUSTRY. IT IS NOT AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE. AS AN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE THE TRUST MUST GENERATE ITS OWN FUNDS FOR INVESTMENTS. KAISER

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